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Yugoslavia

The Political Situation in the District
of Vinkovci

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1. According to declarations of the local authorities, the District of Vinkovci is regarded as one of the worst districts in Croatia. This fact is ascribed to the preponderance of rich farmers in the area.
2. Resistance to the compulsory crop purchase program is increasing constantly. In the village of Gerna, a certain farmer Stjepan Dekanovic, shot at the crop purchase commission and wounded four of its members. There were several other cases of resistance in the same village. In the village of Ostrovo, the Council building was set on fire and all the contracts for the crop purchase of grain and fats were burned.
3. The peasants are offering particular resistance to the mobilization of manpower for various work projects. In Vinkovci about 100 persons who were mobilized to cut wood near the village of Plasko fled and returned to their homes. The inhabitants of this community also resisted compulsory mobilization for reclamation work in the rice fields of Jelas Polje, where a certain Susan Svilokos stirred up the whole populace to such a point that they all left their work and returned to their homes. As a result, Svilokos was arrested.
4. On about 15 August 1949, slogans such as "Long Live the Atlantic Pact" and "We Want Freedom" appeared on houses in the village of Gerna.
5. In Vinkovci there is a choral society known as "Vila", headed by Boksa Milasinovic, a lawyer. This choral society cooperated with the local priests, and consisted solely of respectable and honest nationalists. Recently, the Communists have been trying to break up this society.
6. The Croats, and especially the Macokovci, are very active in this area. Well-known Macokovci in this area include Franjo Gordasic, Ivan Selumario, Judge Antun Lukas, Antun Jergovic, Zivko Simic, Luka Skoric, and Luka Vinkovac, who are working actively in the Great Peasant Party.
7. Most of the Croats in this region have always had a deep hatred for the Serbs, and blame the Serbs for all the measures taken by the Communists. The priests, who have always expected an independent Croatian State to be reestablished, are particularly active in anti-Serbian propaganda. The influence of these priests on the Croatian element of the people is strong. In all the villages the priests are establishing choral

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societies directed by nuns and monks, and in this way a great part of the Croatian youth are rallied around the church. The Catholic clergy were more against the Serbs than against Communists.

8. A group of Cetniks is in hiding in the vicinity of Vinkovci. Their leader is a certain Antan Ivackic from the village of Privlaka, a former Cetnik non-commissioned officer. The Serbs of this area are not much afraid of them, for they plunder only the Serbs.
9. The best known Communists in this area are:

Rudolf Martinovak: a member of the local Committee, who carries on propaganda and is an agitator;

Marko Vukovic: a member of the Committee;

Ivo Parkusic: Communist deputy for Vinkovci Area;

R. Losario: a member of the Committee,

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Jovo Tofilovic: a member of the Committee;

Marija Nefic: studied in the Soviet Union. She has now declared herself pro-Communists, for which she has been arrested.

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